

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



Oregon  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

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**Weather:** Spring storms continued through eastern Oregon last week according to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). However, snowbank percentages continued to be extremely low in the Oregon Cascades, ranging from 15% to 50% of average. High temperatures ranged from the lower eighties to the lower sixties, with lows ranging from the upper twenties to the upper forties. Echo reported the highest temperature last week of 82 degrees Fahrenheit, while Joseph reported the lowest temperature of 26 degrees Fahrenheit. Weekly precipitation was less than an inch in most areas. However, in some areas including Grants Pass, Klamath Falls, Worden, and Lakeview, precipitation was greater than one inch. Stations with precipitation 100 or above percent of normal for the season include Bend, Burns, Redmond, and Rome.

**Field Crops:** Last week brought additional precipitation to much of Oregon. Some was in the form of slow steady rain and some came with thunder, hail and lightning. Reports of damage to crops were minimal as the strongest storms were not widespread. Spring seeding of small grains was wrapping up in most areas. Many producers were busy spraying for weeds and disease as weather conditions allowed. A few instances of stem rust were reported in some small grain and grass seed fields in Clackamas and Yamhill counties.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Pastures and rangeland were reported in good condition across the State. Pastures in western Oregon were showing adequate growth with warmer weather and sufficient moisture throughout the region. Rangeland in eastern Oregon continued to benefit greatly from frequent spring showers. Livestock water sources continue to remain a major concern for many eastern producers as ponds remained at low spring-time levels. Livestock were reported in excellent condition throughout the State with cattle doing very well on new grass.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Nurseries were still very busy shipping large potted plants and balled/burlapped trees and shrubs to eastern markets,

however, high fuel costs have been a problem for the growers. Greenhouses still shipping large amounts of plant material to retail outlets. There were many spring plant sales being conducted.

**Vegetables:** Early vegetable planting such as radishes, shallots, potatoes, garlic, and lettuce was ongoing in Western Oregon. There were limited amounts of early vegetables available at farmer's markets. Rhubarb harvest continued in Clackamas and Washington counties. Ground preparation continued in Klamath County for potato planting. Early onion fields were emerging in Malheur County. A hailstorm hit the Hermiston area causing damage to the onion crop in Umatilla County.

**Fruits and Nuts:** The first emergence of codling moth this year was recorded on Tuesday in the Willamette Valley. Some hazelnut growers applied their final Eastern Filbert Blight (EFB) sprays. Clackamas County strawberry bloom began and caneberries grew vigorously. Washington County raspberries were budding and blueberry bloom continued. Grapes were growing well. Apple bloom continued; some varieties were setting fruit. Filberts looked good and walnuts were leafing out. Southern Willamette Valley prune, plum, and peach bloom were complete. Cherries, pears, and early apples were nearly complete with bloom. Apples were in full bloom. Hazelnut growers need to protect their trees from EFB as the rain continues. Blackberry and raspberry crops were leafing out. Blueberries had a nice bloom on them. Strawberries were starting to bloom. In the lower Hood River Valley, Red Delicious apples were at 50% to 80% post bloom (WSU stage 9); Pinot noir grapes were at Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 7. Rain late in the week resulted in the initiation of pear scab infection periods throughout most of the valley. Fire blight risk increased late in the week with warmer temperatures. Wasco County cherry trees were fully leafed. Fruit set appears to be moderate at this early stage of development. Some frost damage has limited the fruit set in some of the typical frost pockets. Orchard activities included mowing grass strips between tree rows, irrigating, and spraying. Southern Oregon fruit trees continued in bloom.

## Soil Moisture-Week Ending 05/01/05

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	7	24	67	2
Subsoil	22	23	55	0

## Crop Condition-Week Ending 05/01/05

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Winter wheat	2	10	33	51	4
Spring wheat	0	23	45	29	3
Barley	0	4	66	24	6
Range and pasture	4	10	25	58	3

## Crop Progress-Week Ending 05/01/05

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5 year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Barley planted	89	84	84	87
Barley emerged	77	71	60	65
Spring wheat planted	93	87	94	94
Spring wheat emerged	73	66	77	71
Days suitable for fieldwork	5.6	4.9	-	-

## WESTERN OREGON

**BENTON/LINN/LANE:** Fields growing nicely. Dry, warm winter forced grass seed plants to be ahead of schedule. Cool, wet spring (March 15 to May 1) has slowed the process, but conditions still look good. Prunes, plums, and peach bloom are completed. Cherries, pears, and apples are nearly complete with bloom. Hazelnut growers need to protect their trees from EFB as the rain continues! Blackberry and raspberry crops are leafing out, while blueberries have a nice bloom on them. Strawberries are starting to bloom. Early greenhouse vegetables; radishes, shallots, potatoes, garlic and lettuce mixes are going in. Cold affecting some greenhouse crops. Greenhouses are full of new plants. Many markets just starting to grow. Sales depending on the current weather patterns.

**CLACKAMAS:** Sunshine a few days. Some winter wheat fields are showing rust conditions. Spraying for control is underway. Strawberry blooming is beginning, and canberries are growing vigorously. Vegetable planting is ongoing, but there are limited amounts available for local markets. Rhubarb harvest is underway. Nursery shipments to out of state markets continues, but is slowing down. Plentiful supplies of greenhouse products remain available for the local retail trade. Cattle are in good shape. Pastures continue with a lush growth.

**COLUMBIA:** Conditions similar to last week, except for a little less rain. As fields start to dry out, they are being worked for spring planting. Pastures are still in lovely condition. Nursery shipping season is ongoing.

**COOS/CURRY:** Overcast conditions prevailed throughout the period, particularly in the AM.  
Brookings (Curry): Low temp for the period was 48.23 degrees, 6.14 degrees above the 5-year average. High temp for the period was 65.08 degrees, 1.43 degrees above the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.05 inches over 1 day, compared to a 5-year (including drought years 2001-2004) average of 1.18 inches. Weather year precipitation stands at 60.35 inches, still 1.12 inches below the 5-year average (including drought years 2001-2004) and 4.19 inches below the historical average (through April) of 64.54 inches precipitation. Bandon (Coos & Northern Curry): Low temp for the period was 45.54 degrees, 6.1 degrees above the 5-year average. High temp for the period was 59.20 degrees, 4.68 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 0.07 inches over 3 days compared to a 5-year average (including drought years 2001-2004) of 0.66 inches. Weather year precipitation stands at 41.48 inches, 3.68 inches below

the 5-year average (including 4 drought years, 2001 – 2004), and 11.37 inches below the historic average of 52.85 inches (through April). Officials continue to be concerned about potential fire danger this summer (we've already had a 30 acre brush fire near Bandon) and possible water shortages due to failure to refill the depleted aquifers.

**JACKSON:** This week there was over an inch of rain on a county average. On Wednesday, a thunder storm that damaged some crops in parts of Jackson and Josephine counties. Parts of the counties received from one inch to 2 inches of rain in just a half of an hour. The pastures, forage crops and orchards have had sufficient moisture and warm weather to see an adequate growth in the last week.

**JOSEPHINE:** Very mild temperatures with measurable precipitation two days. Everything looks good this spring. Really pretty! Fruit trees are blooming. Greenhouse and nursery crops are doing good business, and all the flowering shrub bulbs and tubers have outdone themselves this year. All animals look good.

**MARION:** Weather conditions continue to be generally good for all crops.

**WASHINGTON:** Winter wheat in early boot. Crimson clover beginning bloom, while alfalfa and Red clover are nearing cutting stage. Spot spraying grass for seed. Rhubarb is at harvest stage, raspberries are budding, and blueberry bloom is ongoing. Grapes are growing well. Filberts looking good and walnuts are leafing out. Apples continue to blossom, some varieties setting fruit. Fields being prepared for sweet corn planting if weather permits. Shipping balled and cut shrubs. Fuel costs hurting! Cows and calves doing well on new grass, quickly grazing down. Buffalo calves looking good. Rainfall 1.4" this week, over 5 inches for month. Temperatures range from 44 degrees Fahrenheit to 79 degrees Fahrenheit.

**YAMHILL:** Most field crops continue to look quite good. Stem rust has shown up earlier than usual in some new seedings of perennial ryegrass and some fields have been treated for rust control. Reports of sclerotinia showing up in crimson clover fields. Grass crops might be slightly ahead of normal. Commercial orchards for the Willamette Valley: The first emergence of codling moth this year was recorded this week on Tuesday. Some hazelnut growers applied their final EFB sprays this week.

## EASTERN OREGON

**CROOK/DESCHUTES/JEFFERSON:** We have heard of only one field of alfalfa that has had an extreme buildup of aphids that needed to be sprayed (in the Powell Butte areas). There are still some chickpea fields to be planted, but should be completed soon if the weather permits. One early planted field of winter wheat appeared to have suffered some drought stress prior to the first irrigation, north of Madras. Greenhouse tomatoes at Madras should be ready to start marketing in a week or two. Good rains again this last week across central Oregon, including Sunday night! This weather should be great for grass growth on the range and is saving irrigation water. There were also some reports of erosion and field damage due to thunderstorms.

**GILLIAM:** Occasional rain showers are slowing down the effects of drought on cereal grains, especially in the south part of the county.

**HARNEY:** Good spring growing conditions continue this week due to rain. Limited runoff is creating some concern for this year's meadow hay crop.

**HOOD RIVER:** In the lower Hood River Valley, Red Delicious apple at 50 to 80% post bloom (WSU stage 9); Pinot noir grapes at Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 7. Late-week rain resulted in the initiation of pear scab infection periods throughout most of the valley. Fire blight risk increased late in the week with warmer temperatures to low to high risk depending on local fire blight history.

**KLAMATH:** Cool, wet temperatures continue, which are causing perennial crops to grow slow. Spring planting was interrupted late last week by welcomed rains. Potato spring planting and ground preparation continue. More than an inch of rain throughout Klamath Basin has improved soil moisture conditions and the water supply outlook.

**LAKE:** Received quite a bit of precipitation in the last week. Cooler temperatures are slowing plant growth, range land and pastures look good.

**MALHEUR:** Good weather all last week. Some late planting of spring wheat is occurring because irrigation water conditions have improved. Winter wheat looks good as well. Early onion fields are emerging. Range conditions have improved greatly due to frequent showers.

**MORROW:** Cool temperatures and timely showers are minimizing effects of a prolonged drought.

**UMATILLA:** The Hermiston area was struck by hail causing damage to onions. First cutting of alfalfa hay has started. The planting of hot house plants (watermelons, peppers, etc) has also started.

**UNION:** Night temperature dropped to below 32 F mid-week.

**WALLOWA:** Drier, warmer conditions throughout the week allowed farmers and ranchers to continue with spring activities, i.e. planting, branding, working up fields. Snow pack is still above 70% of normal but water content fell from 50% to 43%. Most ponds are still lower than normal. Range conditions are good except for the ponds.

**WASCO:** Crops are stressed right now. Blue leaves and onion leaves are common. Shallow spots in the north end are brown and not likely to recover. Two no-tillers reported last week they intend to return to mulch fallow system farming. The south end is later than the north end so damage is not as pronounced and will lag about two weeks behind. The winter wheat crop is putting on height and looks good except south slopes and shallow spots. Two farmers are building a temporary fence around the wheat to turn cattle in probably about mid-May, maybe a little later. Field work included plowing, and weed spraying on both no-till stubble fields, plus eradicating weeds in the current wheat crop. Rain and showers added more moisture to top soil. Spring seeding completed and early spring seeded fields are turning green. Alfalfa crops putting on height and are near bud stage. First cutting is expected later in May. Pastures grasses still flushing in growth and starting to head out. Rangeland still solid green. All livestock are doing well. Rye is headed out apparently showing its strong resistance to drought. North end barley is beginning to head, pointing to an early harvest. Cherry trees are fully leafed. Fruit set on cherries appears to be moderate at this early stage of development. Some frost damage has limited the fruit set in some of the typical frost pockets. Orchard activities this week included mowing grass strips between tree rows, irrigation and spraying. All crops need moisture and lots of it, but just not all at once.

**Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: May 1, 2005 (as of 11:00 am)**

Station	Air temperature <sup>1</sup>				Growing <sup>2</sup> Degree days		Last week precip. <sup>3</sup>			Season cum. Precipitation <sup>4</sup>			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN	Total	DFN	Total Inches	DFN	Days	Total Inches	DFN	Pct. Normal	Days
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	44	62	54	+5	28	+16	0.23	-0.64	3	51.34	-7.54	87	139
Bandon <sup>5</sup>	46	59	54	+5	28	+14	0.07	-0.72	3	47.02	-6.62	88	125
Crescent City	46	61	54	+4	33	+8	0.07	-0.73	2	46.35	-13.64	77	101
Florence	41	67	54	+5	34	+20	0.12	-0.88	3	52.95	-15.62	77	126
Tillamook	38	64	52	+3	13	+6	0.43	-0.71	3	58.27	-19.87	75	135
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Aurora <sup>5</sup>	44	73	57	+7	53	+32	0.27	-0.29	2	23.77	-12.03	66	122
Corvallis	45	81	60	+10	73	+52	0.03	-0.46	2	16.69	-21.47	44	95
Detroit Lake <sup>5</sup>	43	78	56	+11	44	+37	0.33	-0.51	5	28.34	-31.92	47	75
Eugene	41	75	57	+6	53	+26	0.02	-0.54	1	20.84	-23.65	47	107
Hillsboro	40	75	56	+5	42	+21	0.27	-0.14	2	20.43	-12.75	62	121
McMinnville	38	73	55	+4	39	+14	0.01	-0.48	1	18.80	-20.54	48	118
Portland	47	73	58	+6	58	+28	0.53	0.04	4	21.05	-10.20	67	119
Salem	40	72	57	+7	51	+30	-	-0.49	-	19.93	-14.93	57	106
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	46	78	58	+4	60	+18	1.41	1.08	4	24.49	-4.34	85	89
Medford	46	76	60	+7	69	+33	0.66	0.44	2	14.25	-2.37	86	72
Roseburg	46	75	60	+7	69	+34	0.07	-0.35	1	22.10	-7.45	75	91
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	31	73	49	+3	11	+4	0.45	0.17	4	7.34	-3.38	68	66
Echo <sup>5</sup>	33	82	57	+3	51	+11	0.02	-0.13	1	3.83	-3.46	53	80
Heppner	33	75	54	+3	29	+8	0.47	0.15	3	6.86	-3.74	65	77
Hermiston	34	79	56	+2	48	+8	0.03	-0.12	1	4.32	-2.93	60	49
John Day	32	71	51	+3	13	-1	0.23	-0.07	2	7.39	-1.61	82	82
Madras <sup>5</sup>	38	72	54	+5	28	+7	0.21	0.07	4	5.68	-2.26	72	82
Moro	34	74	53	+5	28	+14	0.46	0.32	3	6.01	-3.02	67	77
Parkdale <sup>5</sup>	37	74	54	+3	27	+0	0.36	0.08	3	17.46	-11.08	61	111
Pendleton	33	75	56	+3	45	+12	0.03	-0.19	1	5.22	-4.37	54	67
The Dalles	42	79	59	+9	62	+41	0.41	0.27	3	6.56	-3.95	62	73
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Agency Lake <sup>5</sup>	38	68	51	+7	11	+4	0.74	0.53	3	9.89	-3.49	74	62
Bend	34	67	49	+4	8	-1	0.22	0.08	2	9.06	-0.01	100	55
Burns	33	67	50	+5	3	-7	0.57	0.41	4	8.01	0.88	112	73
Christmas Valley <sup>5</sup>	30	68	48	-1	2	-16	0.87	0.68	4	7.04	-2.33	75	65
Klamath Falls	27	68	49	+2	4	-10	1.14	0.99	3	8.72	-2.35	79	62
Klamath Falls <sup>5</sup>	29	67	49	+2	5	-9	1.18	1.03	6	8.24	-2.83	74	90
Lakeview	32	67	49	+3	2	-8	1.24	0.96	4	5.03	-7.13	41	43
Lorella <sup>5</sup>	27	68	48	+1	-	-14	0.79	0.64	6	9.00	-2.07	81	92
Redmond	35	73	53	+7	21	+8	0.14	0.00	2	6.80	0.63	110	62
Worden <sup>5</sup>	29	68	49	+2	4	-10	1.49	1.34	4	8.21	-2.86	74	79
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	27	74	49	+2	14	+0	0.05	-0.16	2	5.91	-0.80	88	66
Joseph	26	70	49	+6	11	+11	0.16	-0.26	1	11.71	-7.56	61	93
La Grande	30	75	52	+3	27	+7	0.05	-0.30	1	6.59	-6.33	51	66
Prairie City <sup>5</sup>	29	66	49	+7	10	+10	0.15	-0.13	2	8.29	-7.94	51	59
Union	31	76	51	+3	17	+3	0.10	-0.23	2	8.55	-0.53	94	74
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	33	79	55	+1	39	-5	0.04	-0.10	2	3.75	-3.84	49	40
Rome	34	71	53	+4	23	+2	0.67	0.46	4	5.69	0.19	103	54

<sup>1</sup> Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit. <sup>2</sup> Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit. <sup>3</sup> Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

<sup>4</sup> Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2004. <sup>5</sup> Agri-Met weather stations.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).  
Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Summary based on NWS data.

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